

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Corporation of the Presiding Bishop, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

California

This outline describes major sources of information about families from California. As you read this outline, study the *United States Research Outline* (30972), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY™

The Family History Library has many of the records listed in this outline. The major holdings include census, early Catholic, military, and vital records.

Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, and microfiche numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers™.

FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG™

The Family History Library's records are listed in the Family History Library Catalog located at the library and at each Family History Center™. To find a record, look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog for:

- The *place* where your ancestor lived, such as:
UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
CALIFORNIA - VITAL RECORDS - INDEXES
CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES -
NATURALIZATION
CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES -
VITAL RECORDS
- The *record type* you want to search, such as:
UNITED STATES - CENSUS RECORDS
CALIFORNIA - VITAL RECORDS - INDEXES
CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES -
NATURALIZATION
CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES -
VITAL RECORDS

The section headings in this outline match the names of record types used in the Family History Library Catalog.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives, libraries, and societies have collections or services helpful for genealogical research.

- California State Archives
 1020 "O" Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Telephone: 916-653-7715
 Fax: 916-653-7363
- National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)
 24000 Avila Road
 Laguna Niguel, CA 92677
 Telephone: 714-360-2641
 Fax: 714-360-2644
- National Archives—Pacific Region (San Bruno)
 1000 Commodore Drive
 San Bruno, CA 94066
 Telephone: 415-876-9009
 Fax: 415-876-9233
- California Genealogical Society
 300 Brannan Street, Suite 409
 San Francisco, CA 94107-0105
 Telephone: 415-777-9936
 Fax: 415-777-0932
Mailing address:
 P.O. Box 77105
 San Francisco, CA 94107-0105
- California State Library
 914 Capitol Mall
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 Telephone: 916-654-0261
 Fax: 916-654-0241

A helpful guide to the California State Library is Gary E. Strong and Gary F. Kurutz, eds., *Local History and Genealogical Resources of the California State Library and Its Sutro Branch* (Sacramento: California State Library Foundation, 1983; FHL book 979.4 A1 No. 96).

- Society of California Pioneers
 1 Hawthorne Street
 San Francisco, CA 94119-1850
 Telephone: 415-957-9858
 Fax: 415-957-1849

US/CAN
REF AREA
973
D274
J.1
COPY 19

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 1850

San Francisco, CA 94119-1850

To learn more about the history and record-keeping systems of California counties, use the 16 inventories of the county archives produced by the Historical Records Survey around 1940. The Family History Library has 13 of these inventories.

Two helpful guides to California archives and repositories are:

Coy, Owen C. *Guide to the County Archives of California*. Sacramento: California Printing Office, 1919. (FHL film 962744.)

Directory of Archival and Manuscript Repositories in California. Redlands, Calif.: Beacon Printery, 1975. (FHL book 979.4 J54d; film 1036038 item 3.)

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers
- Post queries
- Send and receive e-mail
- Search large databases
- Search computer libraries
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from California in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of April 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- USGenWeb
<http://www.usgenweb.com/>
A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county, state, and country.
- Roots-L
<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/usa/>
A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

For further details about using computer networks, bulletin boards, and news groups for family history research, see the *United States Research Outline*, 2nd ed., "Archives and Libraries" section.

FamilySearch®

The Family History Library and some Family History Centers have computers with FamilySearch®. FamilySearch is a collection of computer files containing several million names. FamilySearch is a good place to begin your research. Some of the records come from compiled sources; some have been automated from original sources.

Computers with FamilySearch do *not* have access to computer on-line services, networks, or bulletin boards. However, those services are available at many public libraries, college libraries, and private locations.

BIBLE RECORDS

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains many volumes of Bible records for families from California and other states. Volumes 2 through 24 of this set were microfilmed in 1972 at the DAR Library, Washington, D.C. (FHL films 844415-21). Each volume is individually indexed. Another partial index to these volumes and the collection described under "Genealogy" is E. Kay Kirkham, *An Index to Some Family Records of the Southern States* (Logan, Utah: Everton Publishers, 1979; FHL book 973 D22kk v. 1; fiche 6089183).

BIOGRAPHY

The California State Library and the Bancroft Library at the University of California-Berkeley have major collections of California biographies. Between 1929 and 1962 the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) prepared a 26-volume biographical collection, *Records of the Families of California Pioneers*. It is found at the DAR Library in Washington, D.C., and at the Family History Library (films 844436-46). Each volume has an every-name index. An index to the principal persons in each biography is Robert L. Davignon, *Pioneers of California Index* (Salt Lake City: Family History Library, 1986; FHL book 979.4 D32pi 1986; film 1421606 item 7; fiche 6051447).

There are many published statewide, regional, and county biographical collections. A representative biographical encyclopedia is Alonzo Phelps, *Contemporary Biography of California—Representative Men*, 2 vols. (San Francisco: A.L. Bancroft and Co., 1881; FHL film 468754 item 2).

An index of biographies published in 61 county histories from 1855 to 1898 is J. Carlyle Parker, *An Index to the Biographies in the 19th Century California County Histories*, Gale Genealogy and Local History Series, Vol. 7 (Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1979; FHL book 979.4 D32p).

CEMETERIES

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) collection contains tombstone inscriptions from California cemeteries. This collection is described in the "Genealogy" section of this outline. A separate DAR collection of cemetery records from some counties is in *Vital Records from Cemeteries in California to 1962*, 17 vols. (N.p.: Daughters of the American Revolution, California, 1968; FHL films 558288-91).

Another important collection is *Cemetery Records of California*, 11 vols. (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society, 1954-63; FHL book 976.7 V22L; films 874068 items 1-3, vols. 1-3 and 874075-77, vols. 4-11).

CENSUS

Federal

Many federal census records are at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more detailed information on these records.

The Family History Library has the U.S. federal censuses for the state of California from 1850 to 1920. The 1890 census has been destroyed.

Statewide indexes are available in book format for the 1850, 1860, and 1870 censuses. Soundex (phonetic) indexes are available on microfilm for part of the 1880 and all of the 1900, 1910, and 1920 censuses.

Mortality schedules for the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses are at the California State Library. A published index to the 1850 schedule is available at the Family History Library.

Colonial and State

Pre-statehood lists (called *padrons*) of Spanish, Mexican, and Indian residents have been published in *The Quarterly (Historical Society of Southern California)*, vols. 15, 18, 41-43, 54 (FHL book 979.4 B2s). Especially helpful are the Los Angeles censuses of 1790, 1836, and 1844. The original records are scattered among various archives. The Family History Library has copies on microfilm.

The California State Library and the Family History Library have copies of a state census of 1852 (FHL films 909229-34). This census gives information on the entire household, including an individual's state or country of birth and last residence.

The California State Archives also has some censuses for California cities covering the period 1897 to 1938. These generally contain only the names and addresses of the persons enumerated, although some records give more information. The Family History Library has copies of several of these censuses through 1910, including:

- Los Angeles and San Jose (1897)
- San Diego (1899)
- Oakland (1902)

CHURCH RECORDS

Before 1900 the largest religious groups in California were the Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational churches. The Family History Library has several histories of the Catholic, Presbyterian, Latter-day Saint, and Methodist churches in California.

Roman Catholic

The first Catholic missions were organized in 1769. Most of the mission records begin in 1770 and are on film. The Family History Library and the Bancroft Library have extensive collections of the early records. For the index to these records, see Thomas W. Temple III, *An Alphabetical Listing of the California Mission Vital Records* (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1985; FHL film 1307621 item 4; fiche 6047009).

The following sources may help you find Catholic mission records:

Weber, Francis J. *A Select Guide to California Catholic History*. Los Angeles: Westernlore Press, 1966. (FHL book 979.4 K21c.)

Bowman, J.N. "The Parochial Books of the California Missions, 1961," *The Quarterly (Historical Society of Southern California)*, vol. 43, no. 3. (FHL book 979.4 B2s.)

Barton, Noel R. "Genealogical Research in the Records of the California Missions," *Genealogical Journal*, vol. 4, no. 1. (FHL book 973 D25gj.)

Many original mission records and other Catholic records have been gathered into central repositories. These include:

- Santa Barbara Catholic Mission
Santa Barbara (Old Mission)
Santa Barbara, CA 93105

A guide to this extensive collection is Maynard J. Geiger, *Calendar of Documents in the Santa Barbara Mission Archives* (Washington: Academy of American Franciscan History, 1947; FHL book 979.491 A5g, vol. 1).

- Diocese of Los Angeles
3424 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Telephone: 213-637-7000
- Historical Archives
210010 Broadway
Sacramento, CA 95818-2541
Telephone: 916-733-0299
Fax: 916-733-0215
- Diocese of San Diego
3888 Paducah Drive
San Diego, CA 92117
Telephone: 619-490-8200
Fax: 619-490-8272

Methodist

Holt-Atherton Church Archives
University of the Pacific
3601 Pacific Avenue
Stockton, CA 95211
Telephone: 209-946-2404
Fax: 209-946-2810

Presbyterian

San Francisco Theological Seminary Library
2 Kensington Road
San Anselmo, CA 94960
Telephone: 415-258-6636

COURT RECORDS

Major California courts that kept records of genealogical value were established as follows:

Supreme court is a statewide appellate court. The Family History Library has copies of plaintiff and defendant indexes to records of supreme court cases from 1850-1930 (FHL films 978908-9).

Court of appeal is a statewide intermediate appellate court. The Family History Library has plaintiff and defendant indexes to records of cases from 1900-1930 (FHL films 978910-11).

Superior courts have countywide jurisdiction over civil and criminal cases including probate and juvenile cases, and appeals from citywide justice and municipal courts. The superior courts replaced the district courts. The Family History Library has some superior court records, such as San Francisco County attachments for 1850 and 1869 to 1872 (at this time it was the district court; FHL films 974856-7).

Original court records are located at the various county or city courthouses. You can also find records and indexes at the California State Archives, including *Index to Transcripts of Court Cases in State Archives* (Sacramento: Attorney General, N.d.; FHL film 978914).

DIRECTORIES

Directories of heads of households were published for major cities of California. The Family History Library, for example, has:

- Los Angeles
1873-1935 FHL films 1376980—
1910, 1942, etc. . . . FHL books 979.493 E4LL
- San Francisco
1850-1861 FHL fiche 6044468-83
1861/62-1934 FHL films 1377422—
1910, 1936, etc. . . . FHL books 979.461 S1 E4p
1935, 1945-46, 1961,
1962 FHL films 1321020

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

People

In the colonial era Spaniards established most of the early settlements, although England and Russia also made expeditions to California. During the 80 years of Spanish and Mexican dominion in California (1769-1848), few immigrants came from Spain and Mexico, and even fewer came from other countries.

In 1841, overland travelers from the United States began to come to California. In 1846, war broke out between the U.S. and Mexico when American settlers in California protested Mexican rule and set up a republic. By 1848, when the U.S. acquired the area, fewer than 15,000 settlers lived there. Over half were Spanish or Mexican. The rest were of various nationalities, including English, Scottish, Irish, German, French, and Italian.

The discovery of gold in California in 1848 triggered a major exodus from the eastern states. Chinese also began to arrive in California. By 1850, Anglo-Americans (U.S. citizens of English descent or birth) made up the majority of the population. Individuals from New York, Pennsylvania, and the New England states predominated in migration during the gold rush years.

From 1850 to 1860, many immigrants came from the countries of northern Europe (especially Ireland) and from China. In the 1860s many came from western border states. The Chinese continued to immigrate to work on the Pacific railroad, which was completed in 1869. Until 1870, most of the Chinese came from the maritime provinces of China, especially Canton.

In 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act suspended the immigration of Chinese laborers to the U.S. Other nationalities who arrived in this period were the Germans, Italians, French, and Portuguese.

In the 1880s a southern California real estate boom brought the first large migrations from the Midwest and the number of English and German immigrants increased. Other major increases were among the Italians, Portuguese, and Japanese. Japanese laborers could not legally leave Japan until 1885, but after that date, many came to California. The number of Mexicans dropped, and the Irish increased only slightly.

After 1890 the Italians, Mexicans, and Japanese became the major immigrant groups. Other countries that have contributed substantial numbers to California's population are Russia, Canada, the Philippines, and Poland.

The Irish, French, Italians, and Chinese tended to settle in San Francisco. The Mexicans, Russians, and Japanese settled mostly in the Los Angeles area, as did Anglo-Saxons from the Midwest. Few Blacks settled in California until World War II. Those from the southern states usually went to Los Angeles or Oakland.

Records

The major seaports of California have been Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, and San Diego. There are very few passenger lists for the west coast ports. The Family History Library has 10 microfilms of crew lists from the U.S. Customs House for the years 1848 to 1851, 1854 to 1862, 1881, 1886, and 1892.

The National Archives has recently discovered passenger lists of vessels arriving at San Francisco for the years 1893 to 1953, with an index for 1893 to 1934. The Family History Library has copies of the lists for the years 1903 to 1918 and the indexes from 1893 to 1934.

A reconstruction of passenger lists is Louis J. Rasmussen, *San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists*, 4 vols. (Colma, Calif.: San Francisco Historic Record and Genealogy Bulletin, [1965-]; FHL book 979.461/S1 W3r; film 1000139). This covers primarily 1850 to 1852.

An excellent source of about 30,000 names of miners, immigrants, and other pioneers in the gold rush is Charles Warren Haskins, *The Argonauts of California* (New York: Fords, Howard and Hulbert, 1890; FHL film 1033667; fiche 6051188). This is indexed by Libera Martina Spinazze, *Index to The Argonauts of California* (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1975; FHL book 979.4 H2w index; film 928163 item 2; fiche 6051192).

Histories and records for ethnic groups such as the Chilean, Chinese, French, German, Irish, Jewish, Yugoslav, and Polish are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under CALIFORNIA - MINORITIES.

Records of American Indians are found in the Family History Library Catalog under CALIFORNIA - NATIVE RACES. From the National Archives—Pacific Region (San Bruno), the library has acquired copies of agency records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for the years 1873 to 1947.

GAZETTEERS

Several helpful guides to California place names have been published. Two of the most useful are:

Gudde, Erwin Gustav. *California Place Names*.

Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969. (FHL book 979.4 E2ge.)

Sanchez, Nellie Van de Grift. *Spanish and Indian Place Names of California*. San Francisco: A.M. Robertson, 1930. (FHL film 1320727 item 2.)

GENEALOGY

Most archives, historical societies, and genealogical societies have special collections and indexes of genealogical value. You must usually search these in person. A published collection for early California is Marie E. Northrop, *Spanish-American Families of Early California: 1769-1850*, 2 vols. (New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1976; FHL book 979.4 F2n).

Some notable manuscript collections of compiled genealogies are:

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Collection. This collection consists of transcripts of Bible records, cemetery records, church records, marriages, deaths, obituaries, and wills. It was microfilmed in 1971 at the DAR Library, Washington, D.C., and is available on 42 films at the Family History Library (FHL films 844409-50, 844435-449, and others). The volumes are generally arranged by county and many have individual indexes.

The Spanish-American Mission Collection. This is a collection of family group records showing the ancestry of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the Southwest. It is on microfilm at the Family History Library (FHL Spanish America films 940001-6).

Society of Mayflower Descendants (California) Collection. This is a large collection of alphabetized family group records for California families. It was microfilmed in 1974 at the Society's headquarters in

San Francisco and is at the Family History Library (FHL films 963193-230 and 965671-85).

HISTORY

- 1542- Spain, Mexico, England, and Russia made
1812 various claims to California, but most settlements were Spanish.
- 1769 The first permanent settlement was made by the Spanish in the San Diego Bay area.
- 1821 Spain granted Mexico its independence. California was included with Mexico.
- 1841 Americans began traveling overland to California.
- 1846 War broke out between the United States and Mexico. U.S. settlers in California set up a republic.
- 1848 Mexico ceded California to the United States. Gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill.
- 1849 The Gold Rush attracted over 100,000 people to California.
- 1850 California became the 31st state.
- 1869 Completion of the transcontinental railroad gave California a direct connection with the East. Great numbers of Chinese were imported to work on this railroad.
- 1884- A railroad rate war (1884) and a California
1885 real estate boom (1885) caused a new wave of overland immigration.

The Family History Library has numerous state and local histories by James M. Guinn and other authors. Sources for studying the history of California include:

- Bancroft, Hubert H. ed. *History of California*. 6 vols. San Francisco: A.L. Bancroft and Co., 1884-90. (FHL book 979.4 B4b vol. 1-6; film 982473 items 1-2, vols. 1-2; items 3-5, vols. 4-6; film 1321070 item 4, vol. 3.) There is an index in 979.4 B4b which covers 1542 to 1859.
- Chapman, Charles E. *A History of California: The Spanish Period*. New York: Macmillan, 1921. (FHL fiche 6051216.)
- Hunt, Rockwell Dennis. *California and Californians*. 4 vols. Chicago: Lewis Pub. Co., 1932. (FHL book 979.4 H2h; film 1000092 items 1-4.) Volumes 3 and 4 contain biographical material.
- A bibliography of local histories for California is Margaret M. Rocq, *California Local History: A Bibliography and Union List of Library Holdings*, 2nd ed. (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1970; FHL book 979.4 H23r; supplement, 1961 to

1970, is 979.4 H23r Supp.; 1950 ed. is on film 1000136 item 3).

LAND AND PROPERTY

Spanish and Mexican Records

Until 1822 Spain granted land to settlers. From 1822 to 1846 Mexico granted land and processed claims for the earlier Spanish grants. Many of these early records are at the California State Archives and the Bancroft Library. One set of surviving records, dating from 1833 to 1845, is the Spanish Archives Record Group available at the California State Archives and the Family History Library (FHL films 978888-901; indexes are on FHL films 978888-890). The National Archives also has some early claim records, such as the "Mexican Expedientes, 1822-1846." The following give names of early landowners:

Avina, Rose Hollenbaugh. *Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in California*. 1932. Reprint. New York: Arno Press, 1976. (FHL book 979.4 R2m.) This publication gives a history of land distribution and a list of pre-1847 ranchos.

Cowan, Robert G. *Ranchos of California, A List of Spanish Concessions, 1775-1822, and Mexican Grants, 1822-1846*. Fresno, Calif.: Academy Library Guild, 1956. (FHL book 979.4 R2cr.)

When the U.S. acquired California in 1848, it agreed to recognize earlier claims. A commission was established in 1852 to process the claims. The National Archives has these commission records, including petitions and translations of Spanish documents. These are indexed in J.N. Bowman, *Index to the Spanish-Mexican Private Land Grant Records and Cases of California*, 1958, Reprint (Berkeley, Calif.: Bancroft Library, University of California, 1970; FHL film 833343).

The Family History Library and the National Archives have records of private land grant cases from U.S. circuit and district courts from 1852 to 1910. There are no records of gold rush claims except those that were contested in the courts.

Federal and State Records

Unclaimed land became the public domain. Portions were surveyed and sold by the federal government through land offices. The first general land offices were established in Los Angeles and Benicia in 1853. Some land office records are at the National Archives—Pacific Region (San Bruno) and the National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel).

Federal land patents, and copies of tract books and township plats, are at the California State Office of

the Bureau of Land Management, 2135 Butano Drive, Sacramento, CA 95825, Telephone: 916-979-2800. The National Archives has the original tract books, plat maps, and land-entry case files. These include cash entries and homestead entries.

Records of state land grants are located at the State Lands Commission, 100 Howe Ave., Suite E 100 S., Sacramento, California 95825, Telephone: 916-574-1900.

County Records

After land was transferred to private ownership, subsequent transactions have been filed with the county recorder. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of deeds and mortgages for some counties and is presently acquiring records of other counties. For example, for Sacramento County the library has deeds (1848-80s) on 59 films, and an index (1849-1910) on 97 films.

San Francisco Records

The library has copies of original pre-statehood records for San Francisco, 1838 to 1851, on 21 films. These include Spanish grants and early Alcalde deeds. The original records are at the San Francisco County Courthouse.

After the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906, a law was passed to establish the ownership of land. A claimant filed the proper papers with the superior court, which, if approved, gave him title to the land. These claims are called the McInerney actions. The original records are at the San Francisco County Courthouse. The Family History Library has copies of these claims for the years 1906 to 1984 on 880 microfilm rolls. They are indexed by the name of the plaintiff (claimant).

The library also has 332 microfilms of deeds (1849-1900) and land indexes (1850-1916) from San Francisco County.

MAPS

A helpful statewide atlas is Warren A. Beck, *Historical Atlas of California* (Norman, Okla.: University of Oklahoma Press, 1974. (FHL book 979.4 E3b; fiche 6054102).

City ward maps of San Francisco for the years 1853, 1856, 1867, 1877, and 1894 are on FHL film 1377700; fiche 6016767-71. These are useful with census reports.

The Family History Library has a selection of maps of the gold regions and mining districts, ghost towns, railways, and topographic features. Large map collections from pioneer times to the present are also

at each of the University of California campuses (including Berkeley, Davis, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz) and the fourteen campuses of California State College.

MILITARY RECORDS

The *U.S. Military Records Research Outline* (34118) provides more information on federal military records and search strategies.

Many military records are at the Family History Library, the National Archives, and other federal and state archives. The *United States Research Outline* provides more information on the federal records. For California the following sources are especially helpful:

Indian Wars

- *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During Indian Wars and Disturbances, 1815-1858* (FHL films 882753-94).
- *Registers of Enlistments in the United States Army, 1798-1914* (beginning on FHL film 350307).
- *Old War Index to Pension Files, 1815-1926* (FHL films 821603-09).
- *Pension Index Files, Indian Wars, 1892-1926* (FHL films 821610-21).

Civil War (1861-1865)

The Family History Library has an index to compiled military service records of Union Army volunteers from California (881609-15). The compiled military service records and the pension records have not been microfilmed and are only available at the National Archives. The Family History Library has the pension index on microfilm.

An exhaustive list of the Civil War volunteers is found in Richard H. Orton, *Records of California Men in the War of Rebellion, 1861-1867* (Sacramento: State Office, 1890; FHL book 979.4 M2a; film 1000133 item 4; fiche 6051180). An index to this list is J. Carlyle Parker, *A Personal Name Index to Orton's "Records of California Men in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1867"* (Detroit: Gale Research Company, 1978; FHL 979.4 M2a Index).

World War I (1917-1918)

World War I draft registration cards for men age 18 to 45 may list address, birth date, birthplace, race, nationality, citizenship, and next of kin. Not all registrants served in the war. For registration cards for California, see:

United States. Selective Service System. California. *World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918*. National Archives Microfilm Publications, M1509. Washington, D.C.: National Archives, 1987-1988. (Beginning on FHL film 1530652.)

To find an individual's draft card, it helps to know his name and residence at the time of registration. The cards are arranged alphabetically by county, within the county by draft board, and then alphabetically by surname within each draft board.

Most counties had only one board; large cities had several. A map showing the boundaries of individual draft boards is available for most large cities.

Finding an ancestor's street address in a city directory will help you in using the draft board map. There is an alphabetical list of cities that are on the map. For a copy of this map see:

United States. Selective Service System. *List of World War One Draft Board Maps*. Washington, D.C.: National Archives. (FHL film 1498803.)

Additional Records

The California State Archives has military records from the California Adjutant General's office dating from 1849 to 1945. These include papers of the California Militia from 1850 to 1916, registers of California Volunteers in the Civil and Spanish-American Wars, records of California National Guard Units, and enlistment records from World War I and World War II. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of some of these records from 1858 to 1923 on 35 rolls. Records from World War I that include name, biographical, geographical, and newspaper card files are on the last 17 rolls of this set.

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Naturalization proceedings were under the jurisdiction of the district court (a state court not a federal court) from 1850 until 1880. The county court was also given this responsibility from 1862 to 1880. The county clerk was the clerk of both these courts and kept the records. An 1872 state statute required the clerk to keep two alphabetical sets of records, one for declarations and one for admission to citizenship.

In 1880 the district and county courts were discontinued and the superior court took over all their functions, including naturalization. The county clerk was also the clerk of this court.

The California State Archives has records of Sacramento County for the years 1850 to 1903. The

Los Angeles County Archives (225 North Broadway, Los Angeles, CA 90012) has records of Los Angeles County for the years 1856 to 1886. The Family History Library has microfilm copies of naturalization records for some other California counties and is currently acquiring additional records. Declarations of intention (1870-1928) for Alameda County, for example, are available at the Family History Library.

Naturalization records could also be filed in U.S. district courts after 1850. In counties where a federal district court sits, the federal court, not the superior court, has jurisdiction over naturalization. The Family History Library has:

- Declarations of intention from the U.S. Northern District Court for the years 1846 to 1903 (FHL films 977767-70). The originals are located at the National Archives—Pacific Region (San Bruno).
- Declarations of intentions from the U.S. Southern District Court for the years 1927 to 1948 (FHL films 1249797-840). The originals and more recent records are at the National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel).

Records of the U.S. Eastern District Court are at the National Archives—Pacific Region (San Bruno). U.S. Central District Court records and San Diego Superior Court records are at the National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel).

The Family History Library also has an extensive collection of voting records that name the court where an individual applied for naturalization and the date (see "Voting Registers" section).

For records after September 1906, contact the National Archives—Pacific Region (San Bruno) for northern California and the National Archives—Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel) for southern California, or the local office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

NEWSPAPERS

The California State Library has an extensive collection of California newspapers. Other large libraries in the state also have newspaper collections. Many newspapers are available on microfilm, and some libraries participate in interlibrary loan services.

Several guides and union lists of newspapers are available at university, college, and public libraries. A guide to early California newspapers is J. Budenz, Paul J. Smith, and J.H. Young, comps., *Early Newspapers and Periodicals of California and the West* (San Francisco: W. R. Howell, 1970; FHL book 979.4 A3b; film 1421815 item 8).

PERIODICALS

The major genealogical periodicals helpful for California research are:

Ash Tree Echo. 1966—. Published by the Fresno Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1429, Fresno, CA 92516-1429. (FHL book 979.4 B2at.)

San Diego Leaves & Saplings. 1973—. Published by the San Diego Genealogical Society, 2925 Kalmia St., San Diego, CA 92104. (FHL book 979.498 B2s.)

Lifeline. 1965—. Published by the Genealogical Society of Riverside, P.O. Box 2557, Riverside, CA 92516. (FHL book 979.497 B2L.)

Orange County California Genealogical Society Quarterly. 1964—. Published by the Orange County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1587, Orange, CA 92668-1587. (FHL 979.496 B2g; fiche 6087663—, vols. 1-27.)

Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society (Quarterly). 1964—. Published by the Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, 2635 Homestead Rd., City Library, Santa Clara, CA 95051. (FHL book 979.473 B2s.) Title changed to *Santa Clara County Connections* in 1987.

The Searcher. 1964—. Published by the Southern California Genealogical Society, 103 South Golden Mall, Burbank, CA 91502. (FHL book 979.49 B2s.)

Valley Quarterly. 1962—. Published by the San Bernardino Valley Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2220, San Bernardino, CA 92406-2220. (FHL book 979.495 B2v.)

PROBATE RECORDS

The earliest probate records in California were kept by the probate courts in each county. Since 1879 the superior court in each county has held the jurisdiction over probate matters. The county clerk is usually the custodian of these records. You can obtain copies of the original records (such as wills and estate files) by writing to the county clerk.

Many records of Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, Nevada, Sonoma, and Sutter counties are at the California State Archives. The Family History Library has copies of some probate records, including 33,000 wills filed in San Francisco between 1906 and 1922 on 127 microfilms.

VITAL RECORDS

Local Records of Births and Deaths

The church records in California provide the earliest evidences of births and deaths. County recorders eventually kept vital statistics. Monterey County, for example, recorded a few births as early as 1824. Most clerks kept better records in the decades following the Gold Rush. The Family History Library has been acquiring microfilmed copies of the original records from many counties. For example, the library has 81 microfilms of births from Los Angeles (1905-19, indexed 1905-23), and deaths (1877-1905, indexed 1873-1920). You can also write to each county clerk for information.

Delayed registration of births began in 1943. These records are kept by each county. You can write to the county clerk for information. The Family History Library has copies of delayed births for many counties, such as Los Angeles, for the years 1943 to 1964.

State Records of Births and Deaths

The statewide registration of births and deaths began in July 1905, and was generally complied with by 1920. While the library has not obtained copies of the state records, it does have the index to deaths for 1905-1929 (films 1686044-8), 1940 to 1983 (beginning on fiche 6332560.) For certificates and information, write to:

Office of Vital Records and Statistics
304 "S" Street
Sacramento, CA 94244-0241
Telephone: 916-445-2684
Fax: 800-858-5553

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 730241
Sacramento, CA 94244-0241

The current fees for obtaining copies of the state's records are listed in *Where to Write for Vital Records: Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Divorces* (Hyattsville, Md.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, March 1993; FHL book 973 V24wv). Copies of this booklet are at the Family History Library and at many Family History Centers. Or you can write to the Office of Vital Records and Statistics (above) for current information.

Marriages and Divorces

The first law that required the recording of marriages was passed in 1850. Each county usually kept these records as soon as it was organized. The Family History Library has copies of the marriages for many counties. For example, Los Angeles County marriage

applications (1850-1910) and certificates (1851-1919) are available on 120 microfilms.

The statewide registration of marriages began in 1905. The state records are indexed. The index for 1960 to 1985 is available at the Family History Library (fiche 6332554—). The library has not obtained copies of the actual certificates from the state office. Write to the Office of Vital Records and Statistics (address above) for further information.

Divorce records have been kept by the superior court in the county where the divorces were granted. You can write to the clerk of the court for information. You can also write to the State Department of Health for records since 1962.

Inventory of Vital Records

You can learn more about the history and availability of vital records in *Guide to Public Vital Statistics Records in California, Vol. II, Deaths* (San Francisco: Historical Records Survey, 1941; FHL book 979.4 V2h; film 897426 item 5).

VOTING REGISTERS

California voter registration records can help you locate most male citizens between the years of the federal censuses. The first voter registration records were county poll lists. Although poll lists were required by law after 1850, the earliest records are incomplete.

In 1866, poll lists were replaced by voter registers known as the Great Registers. Each voter was required to register with the county clerk, giving his full name, age, state or country of birth, occupation, and address. If naturalized, he was to declare the name of the court and the date when the naturalization took place. An 1872 law required all counties to print an alphabetical list of voters every two years. Since 1895, data on voters has been more detailed.

All but a few of the Great Registers are available at the California Section of the California State Library in Sacramento. Duplicate copies are at the Bancroft Library at the University of California in Berkeley, and also in county courthouses. Most are on microfilm at the Family History Library. For example, for San Francisco the library has 190 films that include the:

- Great Registers, 1866-1898
- Indexes, 1866, 1888-1904
- Index of naturalized voters, 1850-1898

FOR FURTHER READING

These handbooks will give you more detailed information about research and records in California.

Parker, J. Carlyle. *Sources of Californiana: From Padron to Voter Registration*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969. (FHL book 929.1 W893 I34; film 897217 item 31; fiche 6039417.)

Temple, Thomas W. II. *Sources for Tracing Spanish-American Pedigrees in the Southwestern United States*. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1969. (FHL book 929.1 W893 F14b; film 897215 item 35; fiche 6039366.)

Sanders, Patricia. *Searching in California: A Reference Guide to Public and Private Records*. Costa Mesa, Calif.: ISC Publications, 1982. (FHL book 979.4 J5s; film 1033954 item 3.)

Eichholz, Alice, ed. *Ancestry's Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources*. Rev. ed. Salt Lake City: Ancestry, 1992. (FHL book 973 D27rb 1992; computer number 594021.) Contains bibliographies and background information on history and ethnic groups. Also contains maps and tables showing when each county was created.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.

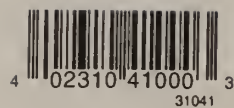
© 1988, 1997 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA
Second edition July 1997. English approval: 7/97

No part of this document may be reprinted, posted on-line, or reproduced in any form for any purpose without the prior written permission of the publisher. Send all requests for such permission to:

Copyrights and Permissions Coordinator
Family History Department
50 E. North Temple Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3400
USA
Fax: 801-240-2494

FamilySearch is a registered trademark of Intellectual Reserve, Inc. Family History Center, Family History Centers, Family History Library, and Family History Library Catalog, are trademarks of Intellectual Reserve, Inc.

31041



FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY



0301269

Utah Bookbinding Co. SLC, UT 2/28/02 14

